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PAO 89-0100

24 March 1989

JUDGE:

You will be making remarks at the swearing-in ceremony for Dick Kerr on Monday, 27 March at 10:00 a.m. in the Old Executive Office Building. President Bush will be attending this ceremony.

In preparing your proposed remarks, we talked to Agency officials and drew background information from Dick's record. We have quoted two statements made about Dick by former DDCIs. The first statement, that Dick possesses "a unique sense of intelligence -- he knows what is important and what the policymakers need," was made by John McMahon on November 26, 1984, when Dick was the Associate Deputy Director of Intelligence and John was the DDCI. The second part of that statement, that Dick "is blessed with the greatest abundance of common sense I have witnessed in government," was made by John McMahon on November 9, 1981 when Dick was Director of the Office of Current Operations and McMahon was the Director of the National Foreign Assessment Center (former organization name of the DDI under Stansfield Turner).

The second DDCI quoted was Bob Gates who observed of Dick: "My confidence in him is such that I do not believe I have taken a single decision where I knew he disagreed. There are not many people I defer to like that." Gates made these comments on November 26, 1984 when Dick Kerr was the Associate Deputy Director of Intelligence and Bob was Deputy Director for Intelligence.

25X1 Dick's first Agency supervisor will be attending the swearing-in. We have made reference to that in the remarks. His name is [redacted] and he was
25X1 Dick's supervisor when Dick joined the Agency as an industrial analyst with
STAT the Office of Central Reference in 1960.

Your proposed remarks are attached.

[redacted]

Attachments:
As stated

*Per my cards as
finally returned
(no cards)*

BTII Baker

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PROPOSED REMARKS
BY
WILLIAM H. WEBSTER
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
AT THE SWEARING-IN OF
RICHARD J. KERR
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 27, 1989

MR. PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THE NECESSARY PERSONAL SACRIFICES OF A CAREER IN INTELLIGENCE. THE HOURS ARE LONG. THE WORK CAN BE DANGEROUS. THERE IS LITTLE PUBLIC ACCLAIM. INTELLIGENCE IS, MORE THAN MOST SERVICES, DEPENDENT UPON INDIVIDUAL ACTS OF PATRIOTISM, OFFERED WITHOUT EXPECTATION OF PERSONAL GLORY. THE REWARD HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF A SIGNIFICANT EFFORT AND TO RENDER VALUABLE SERVICE. TODAY'S CEREMONY IS AN IMPORTANT TRIBUTE TO THE DEDICATION, JUDGMENT, VERSATILITY, AND PLAIN GOOD SENSE OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE. IN AN AGENCY WHICH PRIDES ITSELF ON DISSENTING VIEWS, THE SELECTION OF DICK KERR TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE HAS MET WITH UNIVERSAL APPROVAL.

DICK HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS, SERVING AS AN ANALYST, A MANAGER, A

MEMBER OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY STAFF, AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR TWO DIFFERENT DIRECTORATES WITHIN THE AGENCY. HE HAS BEEN THE CIA REPRESENTATIVE TO THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE PACIFIC IN HONOLULU, THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMAGERY REQUIREMENTS AND EXPLOITATION, AND HAS SERVED AS EITHER DIRECTOR OR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OFFICES RESPONSIBLE FOR REGIONAL ISSUES AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS WORLDWIDE. SINCE APRIL 1986, HE HAS BEEN THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTELLIGENCE, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ULTIMATE PRODUCT OF THIS AGENCY -- FINISHED INTELLIGENCE.

HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED ALL OF HIS ASSIGNMENTS WITH LITTLE FANFARE AND A GREAT DEAL OF SUCCESS. TWO OF OUR PAST DEPUTY DIRECTORS OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE HAVE GIVEN STRONG ENDORSEMENTS. ONE SAID THAT DICK POSSESSES "A UNIQUE SENSE OF INTELLIGENCE -- HE KNOWS WHAT IS IMPORTANT AND WHAT THE POLICYMAKERS NEED." AND HE "IS BLESSED WITH THE GREATEST ABUNDANCE OF COMMON SENSE I HAVE WITNESSED IN GOVERNMENT."

ANOTHER SAID, "MY CONFIDENCE IN HIM IS SUCH THAT I DO NOT BELIEVE I HAVE TAKEN A SINGLE DECISION WHERE I KNEW HE DISAGREED. THERE ARE NOT MANY PEOPLE I DEFER TO LIKE THAT." THIS IS TESTIMONY TO WISE COUNSEL AND A GIFTED COUNSELOR.

DICK, TODAY, I ADD MY VOICE TO THE MANY WHO HAVE COMMENDED YOUR SERVICE. YOUR DILIGENCE, INTEGRITY, AND DEDICATION HAVE MADE YOU NOT ONLY MY CHOICE, BUT YOUR COUNTRY'S AS WELL. I KNOW THAT YOUR LOYALTY TO THE AGENCY AND TO THE PEOPLE WHO CARRY OUT ITS MISSION HAVE BEEN RETURNED MANY TIMES. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT AMONG THOSE IN THIS ROOM TODAY ARE BOTH YOUR FIRST SUPERVISOR IN THE AGENCY AND YOUR MOST RECENT. YOU HAVE AN ENTHUSIASTIC FOLLOWING AND AN EXCEPTIONALLY ABLE GROUP READY TO ASSIST YOU, AS TOGETHER, WE CARRY OUT THE MISSION OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

AND NOW, IT IS MY GREAT HONOR TO INTRODUCE JUSTICE WARREN E. BURGER, WHO WILL ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE.